

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The present amendment is submitted to place the above-identified application in condition for allowance based on the indication of allowable subject matter in the outstanding Office Action.

More particularly, in the outstanding Office Action, claims 4, 17-19, 22, and 26 were objected to but were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims.

In response to that position, each of previously pending claims 1, 3, 5-16, 20, 21, 23 and 24 is canceled by the present response without prejudice so that now only claims 4, 17-19, 22, and 26 are pending in this application.

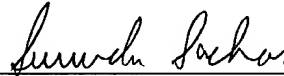
Claim 4 is amended by the present response to now incorporate the limitations from independent claim 1, to be rewritten in independent form, to recite subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action. Similarly, independent claim 17 is amended by the present response to now incorporate limitations from independent claim 1, to also be rewritten in independent form to recite subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action. Claim 18 is amended by the present response to correct a minor grammatical error. Claims 18, 19, and 22 depend from now independent claim 17, and thus are also believed to be allowable. Further, claim 26 is amended by the present response to incorporate limitations from independent claim 24, to also present subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action.

In view of the present response, each of the pending claims is believed to recite subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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